



We, the undersigned members of the U.S. Congress, stand in solidarity with Brazilian Congresswoman Talíria Petrone, elected in November 2018 as a representative of Ríó de Janeiro in Brazil's Chamber of Deputies. After receiving multiple credible death threats — and having failed to receive adequate protection from the Brazilian government—Congresswoman Petrone has been forced to go into hiding to ensure her safety, along with the safety of her 5-month-old child. This follows the decision of Jean Wyllys, Brazil's first openly gay member of Congress and a member of the same political party as Congresswoman Petrone, to leave Brazil in 2019 because of credible threats to his life. It is completely unacceptable to us that elected officials in a democracy are unable to fulfill their mandates because of threats to them and their family members. We call for a full and impartial investigation into these threats in order to identify and prosecute those who are responsible for them.

It is important to note that Congresswoman Petrone is, as the majority of Brazilians, an Afro-Brazilian. While Afro-Brazilians make up 54% of the country's total population and women make up 51.8%, the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies is composed of only 24.3% Afro-Brazilians and 15% female legislators. We know all too well how difficult it can be to obtain equitable government representation in countries with high levels of race and gender disparity. Particularly in the wake of the 2018 assassination of Rio City Council member Marielle Franco (a member of the same party as Mr. Wyllys and Ms. Petrone and, like them, also an Afro-Brazilian), we are concerned by the repeated targeting of an already under-represented section of Brazilian elected officials. And it is highly alarming that the government of President Jair Bolsonaro has so far proven unwilling or unable to ensure the safety of elected officials in the country, with President Bolsonaro preferring to instead undermine the rights and dignity of wide swaths of the Brazilian population. Indeed, President Bolsonaro's attempts to divide the Brazilian people contributed to a spike in political violence during the 2020 local elections, resulting in the assassinations of multiple candidates and campaign supporters.

As President Bolsonaro continues to undermine the rights of Afro-Brazilians, women, LGBTQI+ individuals, indigenous peoples, and others, we are seeing the forces of racism, sexism, and homophobia dangerously emboldened in Brazil. That is why, since the beginning of the Bolsonaro presidency, a wide coalition of members of the U.S. Congress has spoken out against and worked to counter the Trump Administration's consistent praise and support for President Bolsonaro. We will continue to stand with the Brazilian people and to oppose anti-democratic and xenophobic actions taken by President Bolsonaro.

As members of the U.S. Congress concerned with the future of Brazilian democracy, we strongly condemn the threats to Congresswoman Talíria Petrone's life, and we call for a full and impartial investigation into any individuals or organizations responsible for those threats. A fair and just

democracy must be able to ensure that its elected officials are able to serve their constituents and live in a safe environment, without fearing violence against themselves and their loved ones.

Sincerely,



Rep. Susan Wild	Rep. David N. Cicilline	Rep. Adriano Espaillat	Rep. Ayanna Pressley
Rep. Steve Cohen	Rep. Hank Johnson	Rep. Deb Haaland	Rep. Andy Levin
Rep. Joaquin Castro	Rep. Alan Lowenthal	Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva	Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez
Rep. James P. McGovern	Rep. Jan Schakowsky	Rep. Ro Khanna	Rep. Ilhan Omar
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings	Rep. Chuy García	Rep. Jamie Raskin	
Rep. Mark Pocan	Rep. Brad Sherman	Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton	

Rep. Susan Wild

Rep. Steve Cohen

Rep. Joaquin Castro

Rep. James P. McGovern

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings

Rep. Mark Pocan

Rep. David N. Cicilline

Rep. Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.

Rep. Alan Lowenthal

Rep. Jan Schakowsky

Rep. Jesús G. “Chuy” García

Rep. Brad Sherman

Rep. Adriano Espaillat

Rep. Deb Haaland

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva

Rep. Ro Khanna

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton

Rep. Jamie Raskin

Rep. Ayanna Pressley

Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez

Rep. Ilhan Omar

Rep. Andy Levin